

MOTION BY MAYOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND
SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

DECEMBER 14, 2010

Residents of the County's unincorporated rural areas, especially those in the Antelope Valley, the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains, value dark night skies that are unimpeded by light pollution. Dark night skies are one of the many qualities that set rural areas apart from urban and suburban communities. Many jurisdictions across the nation have adopted zoning standards for outdoor lighting in rural areas to preserve and enhance valuable dark night skies, to lessen the impact of development on native wildlife, and to reduce energy consumption, which can reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The County Zoning Ordinance does not currently include standards for outdoor lighting in rural areas. However, over the last several years, such standards have been adopted in various rural Community Standards Districts (CSD). CSD's are zoning overlays that only apply to a single identified unincorporated area. This "one at a time" approach has been problematic for rural areas that are not currently in a CSD, as there are no standards to preserve and enhance dark night skies in those areas.

We feel that it would be appropriate for the County Zoning Ordinance to have a baseline set of objective, measurable standards for outdoor lighting that would apply to all of the County's rural unincorporated areas. If additional protections, or separate provisions, are ultimately needed in certain areas of the county, separate CSD amendments may also be initiated by this Board at a later date.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Regional Planning to:

1. Prepare an ordinance to establish a “rural lighting” zoning overlay that would apply to all of the County’s rural unincorporated areas, including those in the Antelope Valley, the Santa Clarita Valley, and the Santa Monica Mountains;
2. Develop a single set of objective, measureable standards for outdoor lighting that would be applicable within the “rural lighting” zoning overlay;
3. Coordinate with the Director of Public Works to develop a single set of objective, measurable standards for street lights that would be applicable within the “rural lighting” zoning overlay;
4. Conduct outreach to residents of the affected areas and other interested parties;
5. Prepare an appropriate environmental document for the ordinance in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the County’s environmental review procedures; and
6. Present the ordinance and environmental document to the Regional Planning Commission for consideration in a public hearing by September 28, 2011.

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